THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The retail selling prices of Petrol and Diesel in India and some Asian countries, in respect of which data is readily available, and prevalent during the month of January 2008, are given below:

	Petrol Rs./litre#	Diesel Rs./litre#
India(Delhi)	43.52	30.48
Pakistan	33.72	23.67
Bangladesh	37.13	22.85
Sri Lanka	42.38	27.17
Nepal	48.76	34.28

•Data provided by IOC

#Prices converted to Indian Rupees as per currency exchange rate prevalent in January, 2008.

The retail prices of petrol and diesel depend on the pricing policies/pricing methodologies, apart from the taxation structure adopted by the respective Governments.

Uniform sales taxes on Petrol and Diesel

3011. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether Government proposes to reduce cess on petrol and diesel in all the States of the country;

if so, the details thereof;

whether any estimate has been made in regard to the likely impact of such uniform-sales tax on the revenue of the States;

if so, the details thereof; and

the details of measures taken for rationalisation of sales tax rates in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Taxes on sale of petrol and diesel, including levy of additional duties on petrol and diesel in the form of cess, State Development Tax and additional Sales Tax by some States, is a State subject by virtue of Entry 54 of State List of the VII Schedule of the Constitution of India. As per the agreed decision of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) regarding petrol and diesel, these are taxed outside Value Added Tax (VAT), under the Sales Tax Act of the State or any other State / -t or by making special provisions in the VAT Act itself, with uniform floor rate of 20% as decided by the EC. However, in the case of North-Eastern States, Sikkim and J&K, lower floor rate of 12.5% for diesel only has been suggested by the EC. Since these are floor rates, a number of States levy taxes at rates much higher than 20%.

This being a State subject, it is not possible for the Government of India to intervene.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(e) Value Added Tax system has now been adopted by all States. The VAT system involves a good degree of uniformity in rates across the country.